

Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



Steve Hall, RS, MS Health Officer Jennifer Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP Medical Director

PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local Media Outlets

From: Central Michigan District Health Department

RE: Additional Cases Result in Osceola County Measles Outbreak

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Additional Cases Result in Osceola County Measles Outbreak

CMDHD urges residents to check their vaccination status and watch for symptoms.

Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) has confirmed additional measles cases in Osceola County and is announcing an outbreak, defined as three or more related cases. This outbreak has been traced back to residents who were infected while traveling out of state in mid-June.

While no public exposure sites have been identified, CMDHD is continuing to work with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to investigate, and exposure sites may be identified and shared in the future. Anyone concerned that they may have been exposed to measles should contact the health department for advice.

Symptoms usually start 7 to 14 days after exposure but can take up to 21 days to show up and may include:

- High fever (can go over 104°F)
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- Tiny white spots in the mouth
- A red, raised rash that starts on the face and spreads to the body

If you get these symptoms, call your healthcare provider <u>before</u> seeking medical help. That way, you don't spread measles to others.

"With continued fairs and festivals, and schools starting very soon, it is more important than ever for residents to protect themselves against measles," said Dr. Jennifer Morse, Medical Director at CMDHD. "The best protection against measles is the MMR vaccine, which provides long-lasting protection against the virus." Find out

if you are protected from measles by reviewing your vaccination records. You can ask your doctor, look it up on the Michigan Immunization Portal, or call your local health department.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease that spreads easily through the air when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes. It can stay in the air for up to two hours after an infected person leaves, continuing to infect others. Up to 9 out of 10 people exposed to measles will become infected if they are not protected. About 1 in 5 people who get measles will end up in the hospital. So far in 2025, over 1,300 cases have been reported in 40 states. This is the third measles outbreak in Michigan this year.

The measles vaccine works very well and is safe. One dose offers about 93% protection. Two doses increase protection to about 97%. Getting vaccinated not only helps you, but it also protects others in your community.

CMDHD offers MMR vaccines. To make an appointment or ask questions, call CMDHD's Personal Health department at 989-314-7570. You can also find a walk-in clinic at www.cmdhd.org/imms. Most insurance plans cover the vaccine. If you don't have insurance or your plan doesn't cover vaccines, you may qualify for free or low-cost shots through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) or Vaccines for Adults (VFA) programs.

Don't wait. Check your vaccine status and get protected now.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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